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COUNTRY Soviet Zone of Germany

REPORT NO.

TOPIC KOETHEN AirfieldEVALUATION 25X1PLACE OBTAINED 25X1DATE OF CONTENT November 1949DATE OBTAINED 26 January 1950REFERENCES 25X1PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. the Soviets gave orders to clear the fields west of the KOETHEN (M 52/D 95) airfield which was to be expanded in that direction. The order was cancelled in early November 1949 as the plan was not approved by the SMA.

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2. In late November 1949 the road from the field to the town was nearing completion. A strictly guarded bomb dump was on the southern edge of the field.

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3. Despite fine weather in the afternoon no aircraft were parked outside the closed hangars on 20 November 1949. A guarded ammunition dump was on the southern edge. The truck went through the field entrance gate.

4. The following air force units were stationed at the field on 27 November 1949:

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a. Airfield kommandatura of about 150 men,

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b. Supply units of about 300 men, presumably the ground personnel of the flying units.

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c. Flying personnel of about 200 men.

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d. Signal communication units of about 200 men.

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e. Special unit of about 100 men, possibly the weather squadron or the squadron equipped with Boston-IIIs.

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f. This compilation, obtained by continual observation, shows that the personnel totals about 1,000 men.

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5. There was almost no flying in mostly bad weather between 11 and 20 November 1949. The aircraft were parked in the hangars.
6. Between 21 and 27 November 1949 only individual biplanes flew, presumably for weather observation. Some of the single-engine low-wing monoplanes, 15 to 20 planes which were covered with tarpaulins, were parked in front of the hangars. Four of the planes with revved-up engines were daily ready to take off.
7. As no change in the occupation had occurred, about 25 biplanes, 50 single-engine low-wing monoplanes and 6 to 8 Boston-Ills were assumed to be still parked in the hangars. The bomb dump on the southern edge of the field was increased by a pile of about 200 ammunition boxes and a pile of bombs.

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Comment:

- a. The information in para 1 on an intended expansion of the field is received for the first time.

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- c. The occupation reported in para 7 approximately agrees with observations [redacted]. A ground attack regiment and an air reconnaissance regiment are assumed to be stationed in KOTHLEN. The presence of a weather squadron has been repeatedly reported but could not be verified. It is probable that PO-2s, not suited for instrument flying, are employed for weather observation.

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